

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-16, all of the claims in the subject application, as filed, as set forth in the verified translation of PCT/DE2003/002296. Please also cancel claims 1-16 filed under Article 34 on October 25, 2004. Please add new claims 17-41, as follows.

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (New) A dryer for drying a web of material comprising:

a printing group adapted to print a web, said printing group having a vertical web guidance path;

a dryer housing positioned on said printing group;

a web transit channel in said dryer housing, drying of said web being accomplished in said web transit channel;

at least first and second straight web passage sections in said web transit channel, said web of material passing through said first and second sections in opposite directions of web travel; and

a plane defined by a vertical extension of said web guidance path, one of said at least first and second sections being arranged on only one side of said plane, another of said at least first and second sections being arranged on both sides of said plane.

18. (New) A dryer for drying a web of material comprising:

a printing group adapted to print a web, said printing group having a vertical web guidance;

a dryer housing positioned on said printing group;

a web transit channel in said dryer housing, drying of said web being accomplished in said web transit channel;

a plurality of web passage sections in said web transit channel, said web of material passing through said plurality of sections in different directions ;

air outlet openings in each of said web passage sections;

means for supplying heated air to at least one of said web passage sections located at an upstream end of said web transit channel in a web travel direction; and

means for supplying unheated air to at least one of said web passage sections located downstream of said at least one heated web passage section.

19. (New) The dryer of claim 17 further including at least one curved change of direction surface, about which said web of material is looped, said at least one curved change of direction surface being located at at least one of an inlet to one of said sections, an outlet from one of said sections and between two of said sections.

20. (New) The dryer of claim 18 further including at least one curved change of direction surface, about which said web of material is looped, said at least one curved change of direction surface being lowered at at least one of an inlet to one of said sections, an outlet from one of said sections and between two of said sections.

21. (New) The dryer of claim 19 wherein said change of direction surface has a

radius of curvature, said radius of curvature being variable in said direction of web travel and being a minimum at a vertex line of said change of direction surface and which increases toward an edge of said change of direction surface.

22. (New) The dryer of claim 20 wherein said change of direction surface has a radius of curvature, said radius of curvature being variable in said direction of web travel and being a minimum at a vertex line of said change of direction surface and which increases lowered an edge of said change of direction surface.

23. (New) The dryer of claim 19 further including air outlet openings along a vertex line of said change of direction surface.

24. (New) The dryer of claim 20 further including air outlet openings along a vertex line of said change of direction surface.

25. (New) The dryer of claim 17 further including heat sources in said transit channel.

26. (New) The dryer of claim 18 further including heat sources in said transit channel.

27. (New) The dryer of claim 17 further including air outlet openings arranged on at least one of said straight sections of said transit channel.

28. (New) The dryer of claim 18 further including a heating device in a supply line to said air outlet openings.

29. (New) The dryer of claim 27 further including a heating device in a supply line to said air outlet openings.

30. (New) The dryer of claim 28 wherein said heating device is a burner.

31. (New) The dryer of claim 29 wherein said heating device is a burner.

32. (New) The dryer of claim 17 wherein said transit channel has a plurality of said air outlet openings and further wherein a heating device is provided in a supply line to said air outlet openings in at least one of said sections located upstream in the running direction of the web and is absent in a supply line to said air outlet openings in at least one of said sections located downstream in the running direction of the web.

33. (New) The dryer of claim 18 further including a pressure pump adapted to supply air to said air outlet openings.

34. (New) The dryer of claim 27 further including a pressure pump adapted to supply air to said air outlet openings.

35. (New) The dryer of claim 17 further including a suction pump adapted to form a negative pressure in said web transit channel.

36. (New) The dryer of claim 18 further including a suction pump adapted to form a negative pressure in said web transit channel.

37. (New) The dryer of claim 17 wherein said first section extends from a dryer inlet in a first one of said opposite directions over a first distance, wherein said second section extends from said first section in a second one of said opposite direction over a second distance greater than said first distance and further including a change of direction surface between said first section and said second section.

38. (New) The dryer of claim 18 wherein said first section extends from a dryer inlet in a first one of said opposite directions over a first distance, wherein said second section extends from said first section in a second one of said opposite direction over a second distance greater than said first distance and further including a change of direction surface between said first section and said second section.

39. (New) The dryer of claim 37 wherein said second distance is at least twice as long as said first distance.

40. (New) The dryer of claim 38 wherein said second distance is at least twice as long as said first distance.

41. (New) The dryer of claim 18 further including a plane defined by a vertical extension of said web guidance path, a first one of said plurality of web passage sections being arranged only on one side of said plane, another of said plurality of web passage sections being arranged on both sides of said plane.